

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING AND SOCIAL GATHERING - 2025

Prepared by: Cllr Rye

Purpose of report

To seek approval to hold the annual Christmas tree lighting and serve refreshments afterwards in VH or CH

Recommendation

The full council approves the funding and organisation of the lighting of the Christmas tree and a social gathering at CH or VH afterwards.

Background

The lighting of the Christmas tree is held every year around the beginning of December and is followed by a gathering in the CH or VH where more carols will be sung. Snacks and hot and cold drinks are made available.

Proposal

The lighting of the Christmas Tree on Station Road is to take place on Saturday 6th December 2025 at approximately 17:00/18:00 (TBC nearer the date). This is to tie in with the Community Hub Christmas fayre to be held in VH on the same afternoon. It will also tie into the carol walk that is to be held by Rev. Charlie Kostler for St Mary's church, Chigwell. It should be noted that Lynne Moir for the community Hub is aware of this proposal, but we are yet to contact Rev. Charlie Kostler. The lighting of the Christmas tree will commence before carol singing and possible readings from members of different faiths. The residents gathered will then be invited back to the CH or VH for hot or cold drinks, snacks and more carol singing. There is a possibility that we will also arrange games/quiz where small prizes could be won. A full itinerary will be announced should the proposal be agreed.

Financial Implications

There is a financial implication as all events cost money. As Chigwell Parish Council own the land which the Christmas tree stands, there will be no cost for this and likewise for the hiring of CH or VH.

Service, security and management

This will be risk assessed in the usual manner with no further security needed. Management of residents will be minimal as long as health and safety standards are maintained.

Implementation and risk

There is a risk of accident as the area around the Christmas tree is uneven terrain and near a main road. As above, a full risk assessment will be carried out beforehand.

Equality climate and safeguarding considerations

As this is open to all residents of Chigwell and beyond and is non-denominational, there is negligible negative equality or climate impact. Safeguarding practices will be the standard ones practised by Chigwell Parish Council.

Budget and affordability

There is a budget put aside for this event (cost TBA) and it will cover any electrical maintenance, insurance cover, food and drink, which will be bought in prior to the event.

Conclusion

This event is open to all Chigwell residents, their friends, family and other residents from neighbouring areas. The event is to interact with the community and portray Chigwell Parish Council, Staff and councillors in a positive, approachable light.